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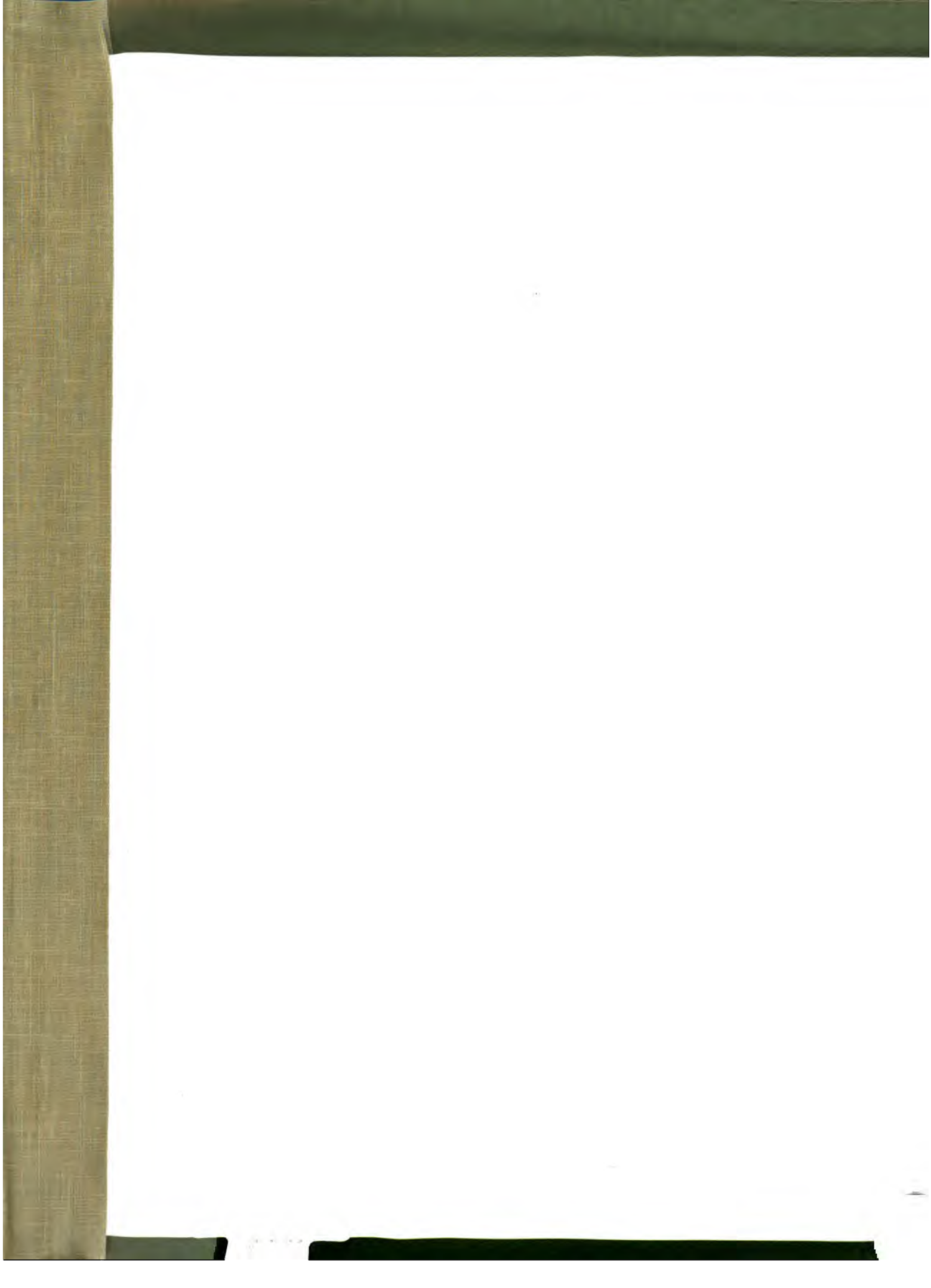

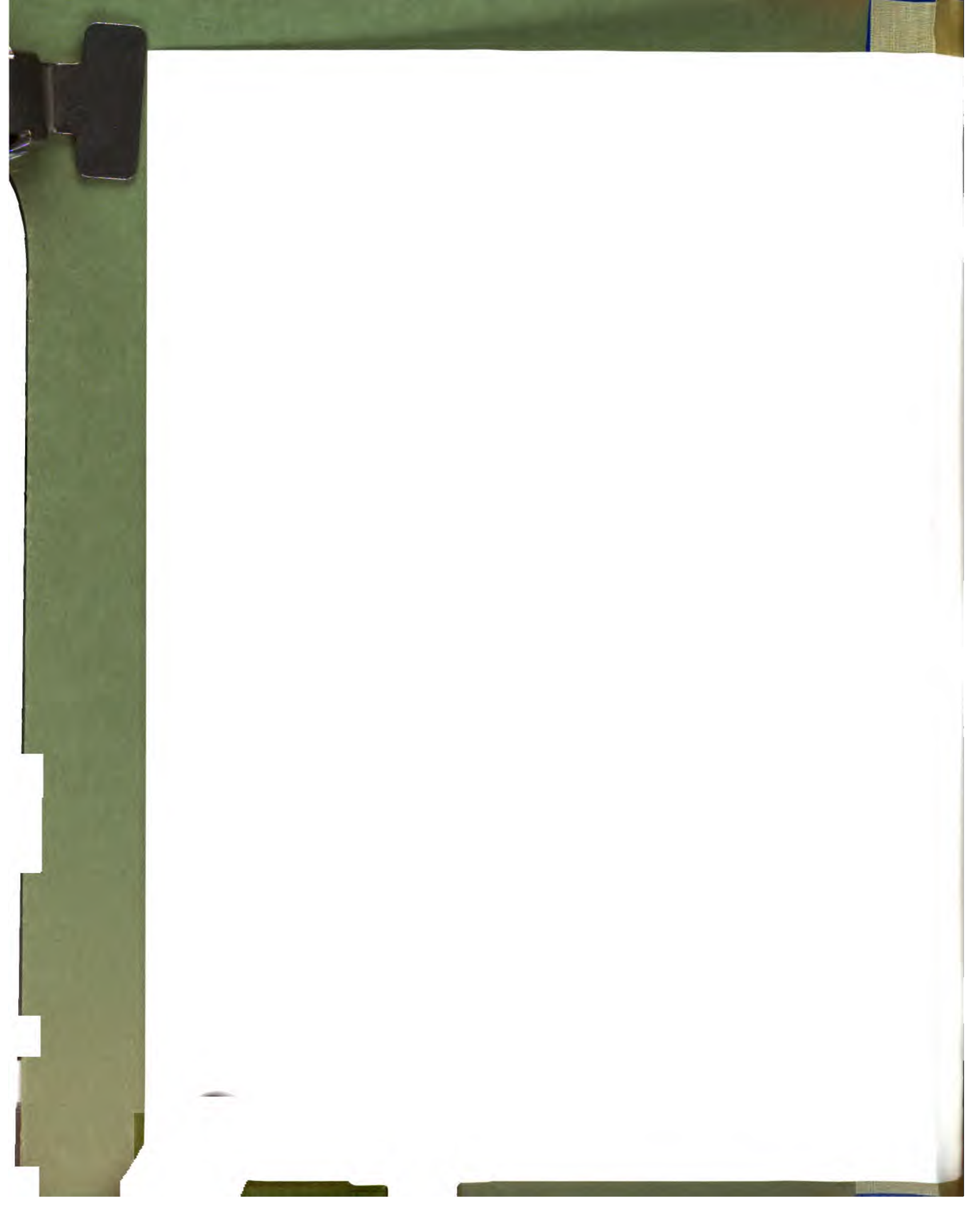

THE MESSINGER FAMILY

IN EUROPE AND AMERICA.

By GEORGE WASHINGTON MESSINGER,
OF BOSTON.

WITH A MEMOIR OF HON. DANIEL MESSINGER OF BOSTON,
BY JOHN WARD DEAN, A.M.

Reprinted from the N. E. Historical and Genealogical Register for October, 1862.

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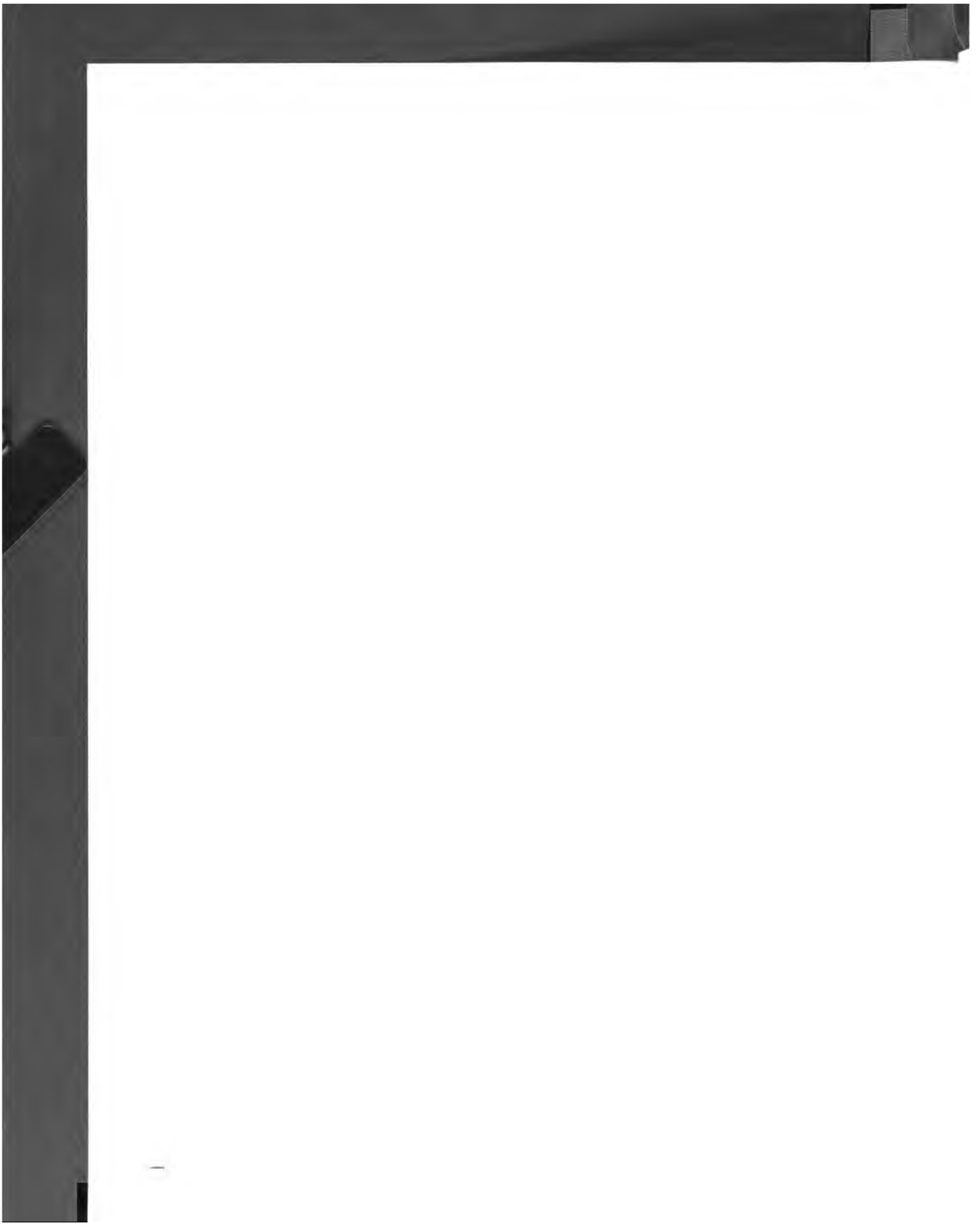

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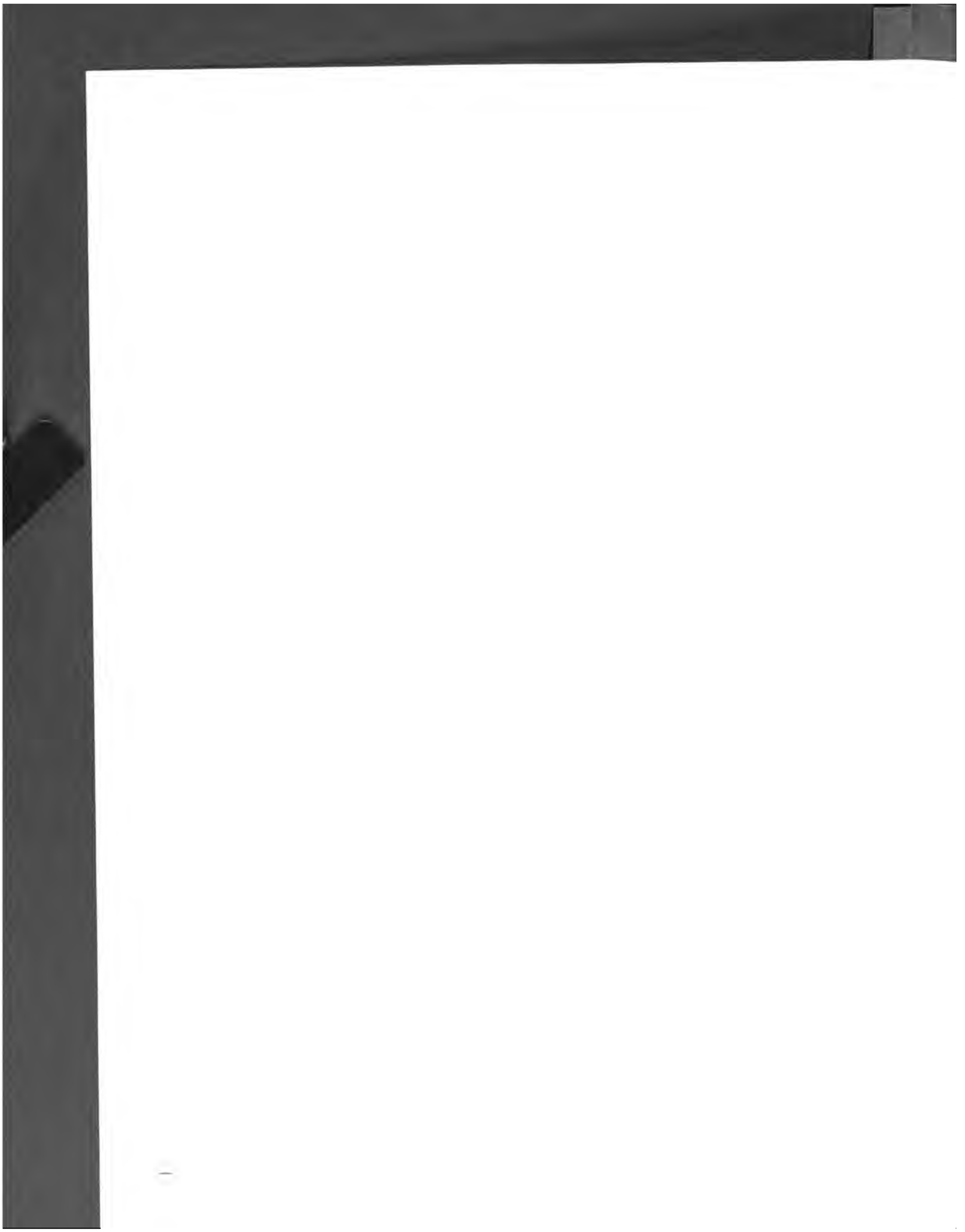

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GENEALOGY OF THE MESSINGER FAMILY.

[By Hon. GEORGE W. MESSINGER of Boston.]

I. ORIGIN OF THE NAME, ETC.

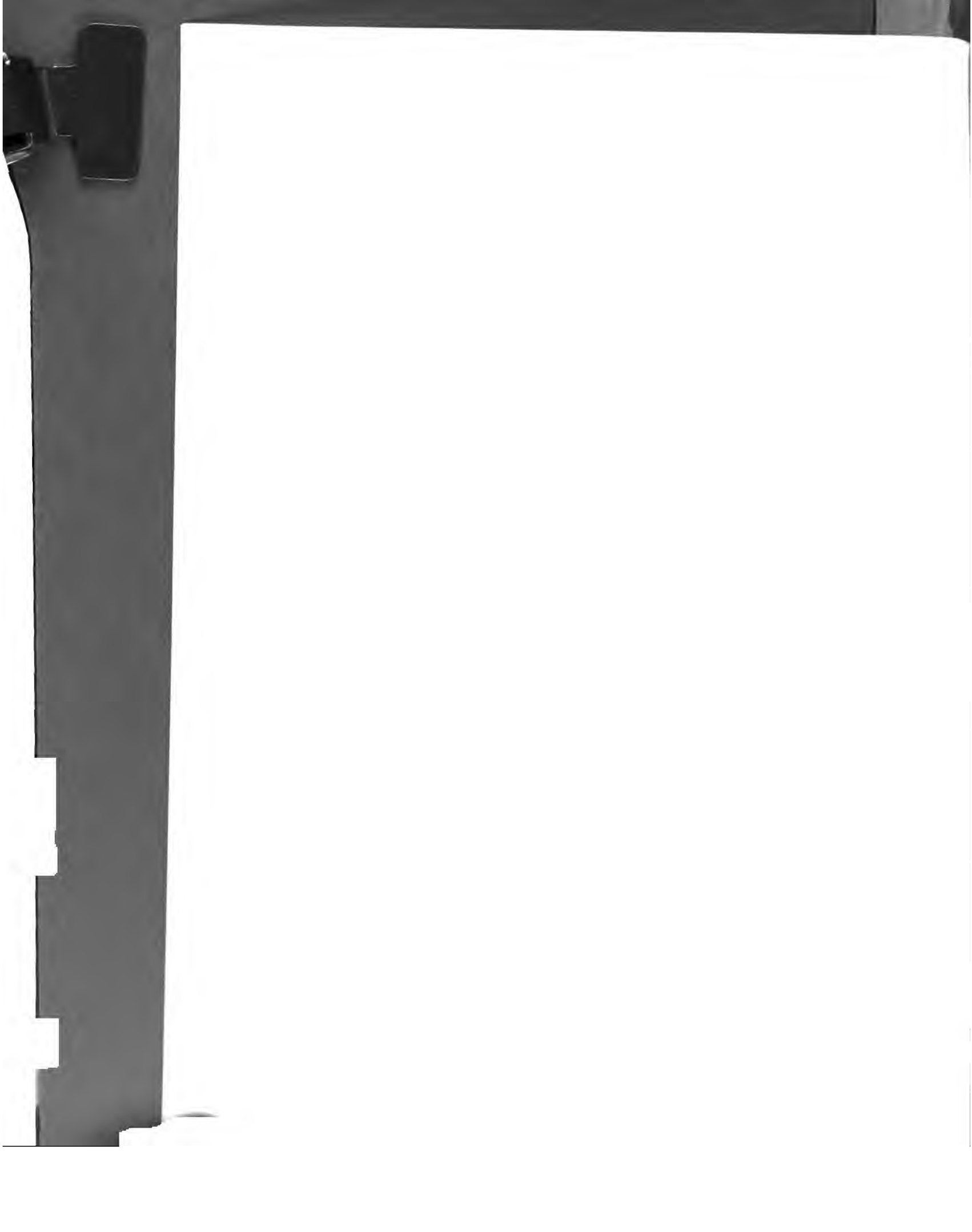
According to Burke and other authorities, Massinger, Messenger, Massenger and Messinger all seem to be the same, noted *first* of Gloucestershire. Arms—"Ar., a chevron between three close hemlets Sa.;" and in Rudder's *History of Gloucestershire*, page 597, is this notice: "In the church at Painswick, 6 miles south of Gloucester, against the north wall, are several memorials of the Massinger family, formerly of Gloucester, whose arms are: 'Argent a chevron gules between three helmets sable.'"

In the Herald's college, London, the same arms are entered as borne by John Messenger of Newisham, county of York, who died in 1616, aged 70 years, and was buried at Kirk Ravensworth. Two of his sons, Henry and Anthony, were killed in the service of King Charles I, and another, John Messenger, Esq., born in 1590, was the owner of the Fountain Abbey estate, near Ripon, in 1627. His crest was, a dove with an olive branch, and the motto—*Nuncia Pacis*. But other arms were borne by the Messengers of Norfolk at the visitation of that county in 1664, viz: "Vert, on a bend engrailed argent, a plain bend of the field, a bordure engrailed of the second; crest—a lion's head erased vert, charged with a bar engrailed argent; motto—*Legatus fidelis ei qui misit eum.*—Proverbs xxv, 13." And in Bloomfield & Parkin's *History of Norfolk*, vol. VII, page 294, these arms are found in the church at Whitwell: "Messenger, vert, a bend voided and engrailed argent." And in the same history, it appears that Henry Messenger married Joan Coke [about 1570], and that his son Augustine Messenger, gent., was "Lord of Whitwell or Gambon Manor." On a grave stone in the chancel of the church—inscription partly in Latin—the name is spelled Messinger. If either of these coats of arms belonged to the first settler of that name in Boston, it was probably the first described. We know that he was entitled to arms, as his widow in her will, dated in 1694, particularly mentions that Simeon Messinger (the eldest son then living), is to have the "Messinger coat of arms." As Simeon died without male issue, these arms were probably lost.

Of the origin of the name, Lower, on Surnames, says of Massinger,* that it is evidently a corruption of the French *Messager*—a messenger, a bearer of despatches; while some have supposed the name comes from the parish of Messing, in Essex county, England. This name is Saxon, and in the old records is written, Messinges, Messanges,† Mescinge and Massinge. In the *Rolls of Pleading*, time of Ed-

* See Memoir of Philip Massinger, *Reg.*, vol. XIV, p. 75, for Massinger of Gloucester.

† In Wright's *Essex*, page 384, vol. I, we find this note: "King Henry III grants to Hugh, son of Anketill de Mescinge, all the land which he held in the Barony of Reynes, in the villages of Messanges, Birch, &c., and what he and his heirs should afterwards purchase, with ample privileges and liberty of hunting in all the forests of England."—See *Charta de Foresta de Essex*.



ward I and II, page 207, allusion is made to the men of Massinge; and on page 336, is the name of Ric'us Messinge of London, time of Edward II; but the earlier names are those of Messager. In the *Rolls of the King's Court*, in the reign of Richard I, page 118, is the name of Johannes Messager, about the year 1194; and in the *Fine Rolls* of Henry III, about 1260, we find Henricus Messager, son of Radulphus le Messager of Essex; and in the *History of Surrey*, vol. III, page 110, it appears a part of the manor of Send is vested, in 1359, in John Messenger or Messager, vicar of Send. In the *History of Norfolk* are several of the clergy, from 1435, of the name of Messenger; and we find a Thomas Messinger, a rector of Shimpling, Norfolk, in 1451. In Wood's *Oxoniensis*, F., page 12, Rev. Roland Messynger was proctor, May 11, 1508, and in the service of Cardinal Wolsey; he was also one of the original fellows of Brazen Nose College, Oxford, in 1511, and his name is there spelled Messenger.

II. HENRY MESSINGER AND DESCENDANTS.

HENRY[1] MESSINGER and his wife Sarah, were residents of Boston prior to the year 1640.† He was the first known proprietor, as appears by the *Book of Possessions*, of the land on which now stands the building owned and occupied by the Massachusetts Historical Society, and a part of that now covered by the Boston Museum.‡ His house and garden were bounded on the west by the street leading to the common, now Tremont street; on the north by land of Richard Crychley; on the east by land of Major Sedgewick; and on the south by land of Thomas Scottow and the burying place.

He was a member of the A. and H. artillery company in 1658; a freeman in 1665; and by trade a joiner. His will was dated March 15, 1672, and his signature, written in the old style, is quite distinct. He probably died in 1681, as his property was appraised (at £496 9s 6d.), April 30th, of that year. He leaves his estate to his wife, with power to divide it as she may choose among her children, with the exception of his eldest son John, to whom he bequeaths "Five shillings and no more, for reasons best known to myself." His wife Sarah, lived to an advanced age; her will was dated in 1694, and proved June 24, 1697. She leaves the household estate to be divided equally between her sons Simeon and Thomas; Simeon to have the left-hand side of the line to be drawn from the highway on the westerly end to Savage's fence on the easterly end, being the side next Bumstead's, with the cow common; also, the *Messinger coat of arms*. To Thomas she leaves the right-hand side, next the burying place. The live stock also to be divided between her sons. Her household goods she wishes divided among her daughters, and Anna Messinger, daughter of her son John; and she appoints her

† Jan'y 27, 1640. Henry Messinger has a lot of land allowed him at Muddy river, by town grant, for two heads.—See *Drake's Hist. of Boston*.

‡ This is a portion of the land which Hutchinson, in his *History of Massachusetts*, vol. I, page 22, says Isaac Johnson chose for his lot, viz: the square bounded by School and Queen (now Court) street. By some of our modern antiquaries it is doubted whether Johnson had a lot of land in Boston.

friends Simeon Stone of Watertown, and Abraham Williams of Marlboro', to see that the property was properly divided.

The children of Henry and Sarah Messinger were: (2) *John,*[2] [+] b. Jan. 25, 1641; bap. "right of the wife," April 25, 1641. (3) *Sarah,*[2] [+] b. Jan. 12, 1643. (4) *Simeon,*[2] [+] b. Jan. 19, 1645. (5) *Henry.*[2] [+] (6) *Ann,*[2] bp. Jan. 20, 1650, when 13 days old (Savage). (7) *Rebecca,*[2] b. Jan. 26, 1652. (8 and 9) *Lydia,*[2] and *Priscilla,*[2] b. Nov. 22, 1656; the latter d. June 21, 1657. (10) *Priscilla*[2] (again), b. ab. 1659 (see *Reg.* XIII, 220). (11) *Thomas,*[2] [+] b. March 22, 1661. (12) *Ebenezer,*[2] [+] b. Oct. 25, 1665.

2. JOHN[2] MESSINGER, b. Jan. 25, 1641; wife Martha. Probably d. shortly after his father, as his widow appears to have been m. Sept. 5, 1689, to Jeremiah Fitch. His ch. were: (13) *John,*[3] b. Jan. 2, 1670. (14) *Joshua,*[3] b. Jan. 2, 1671. (15) *Sarah,*[3] b. Oct. 1, 1672. (16) *Anna.*[3]

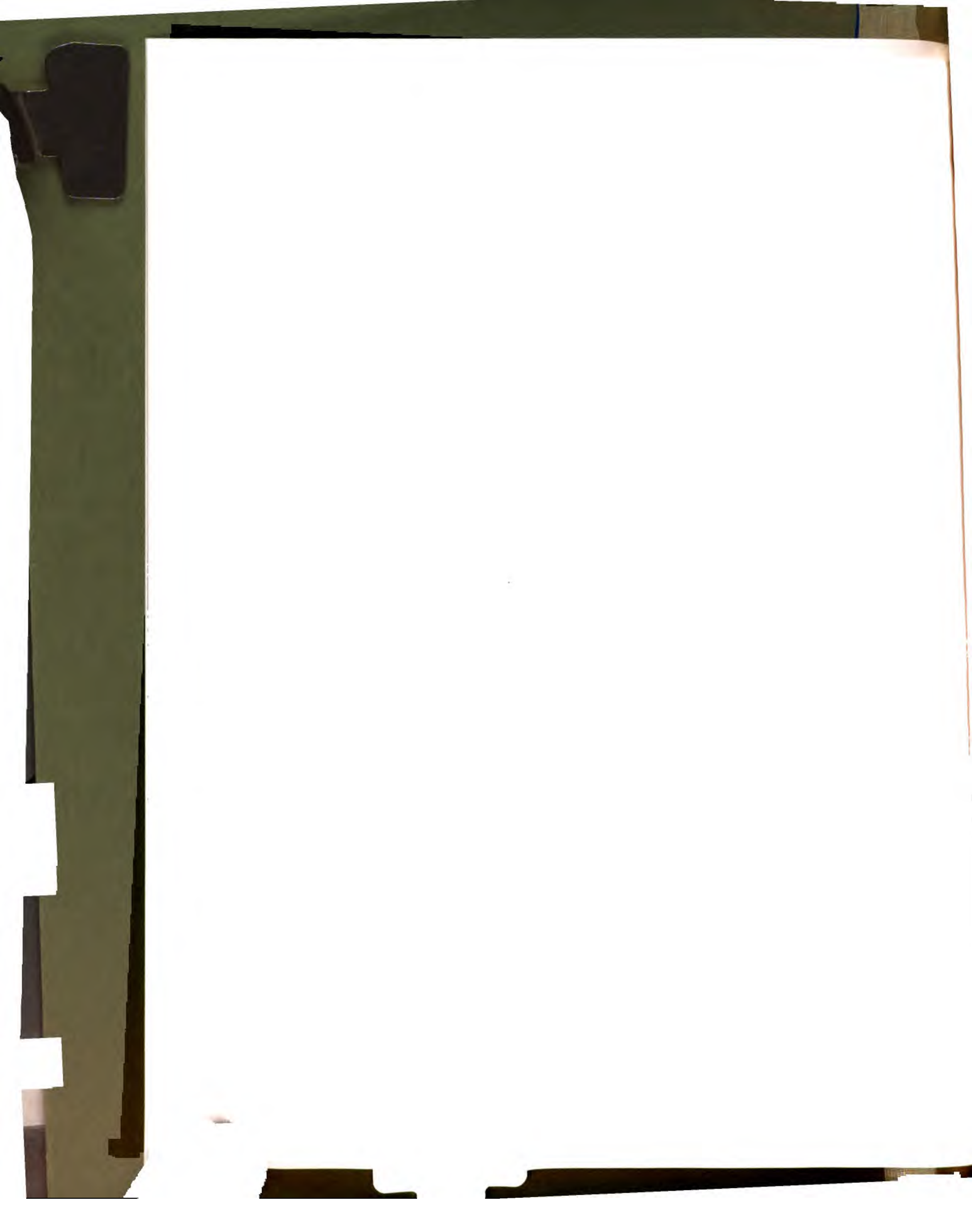
3. RICHARD MASON m. Sarah[2] Messinger. He was the eldest son of Ralph and Anne Mason. They were m. Nov. 20, 1660, by Governor Endicott. By the records, it appears that Ralph Mason deeds his son a parcel of land on his marriage with Sarah, dau. of Henry Messinger. Their ch. were: (17) *Sarah,*[3] b. Sept. 3, 1661. (18) *Jacob,*[3] b. Oct. 17, 1662. (19) *Simeon,*[3] b. March 23, 1664. (20) *Benjamin.*[3] (21) *John,*[3] b. March 9, 1671. In *Suffolk Deeds,* book 39, fol. 264, Benjamin, as administrator, in behalf of himself and others, heirs of Richard Mason, deeds certain property, June 2, 1725.

4. SIMEON[2] MESSINGER, b. Jan. 19, 1645; m. Bethia, dau. of Robert Howard, the notary of Boston, and Mary his wife. He was a member of the A. and H. artillery company in 1675. His ch. were: (22) *Bethia,*[3] b. May 24, 1668; m. to John Green, Jan. 17, 1692. (23) *Mary,*[3] b. March 25, 1672; m. to William Painter, May 28, 169[1]. In *Suffolk Reg.,* book 18, fol. 45, Simeon and Bethiah Messinger deed his part of the *Messinger estate* to their son-in-law John Green.

5. HENRY[2] MESSINGER, m. Mehitable, dau. of Stephen and Truecross Minot. His property was at the north part of Boston, near the Mill Pond. He was a joiner. His will was dated Nov. 17, 1686, and he d. a few days after, as his estate was appraised Nov. 30. He leaves his dear mother, for her kindness to him through his severe sickness and through life, the sum of five pounds, to buy her mourning, and a gold ring of the value of twenty shillings; to his wife's mother Mrs. Truecross Minot, to his brother-in-law John Thwing, and to each of his brothers and sisters, excepting his sister Neale, a gold ring of twenty shillings value, to wear in remembrance of him; to his apprentice, Benjamin Threadneedle, the balance of his time, and if in need, desires his wife to give him a new suit of clothes; his wearing apparel valued at £25 4s., he divides among his brothers Simon, Thomas and Ebenezer, and giving to the youngest "two muskets and two bandineers;" the balance of his property, there being no children, to his wife Mehitable,* who is made executrix. His estate was valued at £338 10s. 6d.

11. THOMAS[2] MESSINGER, b. March 22, 1661; m. Elizabeth Mellows,

* She afterwards m. Stephen Mills of Boston, and d. Aug. 16, 1690.



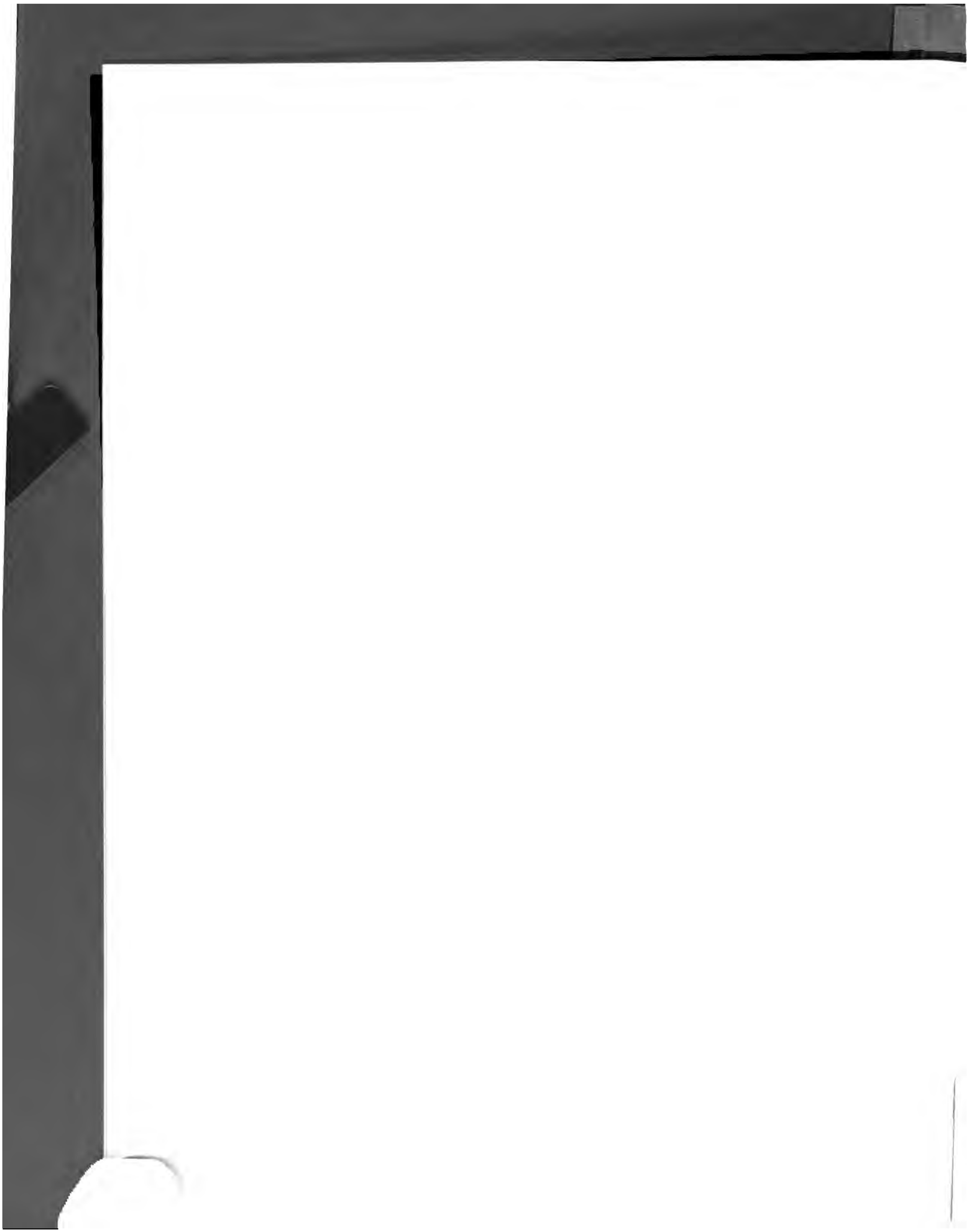
dau. of John and Martha Mellows. He received from his mother the one half of his father's estate, next the burying ground. Some mortgages and deeds are on record, in one of which his wife's mother is then Martha, the wife of Deane Winthrop of Pulling Point. Among the fourteen tything men selected from seven military companies, Thomas Messinger was chosen from Major Savage's company in 1693; his ch. were: (24) *Elizabeth,*[3] b. March 23, 1686–7; d. young. (25) *Sarah,*[3] b. April 17, 1688; m. Jabez Crowell, May 5, 1713. (26) *Thomas,*[3] b. Jan. 18, 1690. (27) *Elizabeth,*[3] b. Oct. 7, 1692. (28) *Henry,*[3] [+] b. Feb. 28, 1695. (29) *Ebenezer,*[3] [+] b. June 2, 1697.

12. Ebenezer[2] Messinger, b. Oct. 25, 1665; m. Rose ——; ch.: (30) *Ebenezer,*[3] b. March 30, 1688; (31) *Henry,*[3] b. July 8, 1689.

28. Rev. Henry[3] Messinger, son of Thomas[2] and Elizabeth, ——, was b. in Boston, Feb. 28, 1695; graduated at Harvard College in 1717; ordained minister of the First Congregational church in Wrentham, Dec. 5, 1719; m. Jan. 5, 1720, Esther Cheevers, dau. of Israel and Bridget Cheevers of Cambridge, Mass. He d. March 30, 1750. A brief memoir of him will be found in the *Register* (*ante*, IX, 59), among Prince's subscribers; his ch. were: (31) *Thomas,*[4] b. May 29, 1721; d. same year. (32) *Mary,*[4] [+] b. Aug. 28, 1722; m. Oct. 7, 1740, Rev. Elias Haven. (33) *Esther,*[4] b. Jan. 15, 1724; m. April 27, 1747, Rev. Amariah Frost (H. C. 1740) of Mendon, Mass., who d. 1792. (34) *Sarah,*[4] b. Nov. 27, 1725; m. 1st, Dr. Cornelius Kollock of Wrentham, Nov. 26, 1745, by whom she had one son, Oliver[5] Kolluck, b. Nov. 17, 1751; d. 1754. Dr. Kolluck d. Jan. 22, 1754, and she m. 2d, Rev. Benjamin Caryl (H. C. 1761) of Dover, Mass., who was minister of one parish 41 yrs., and d. Nov. 13, 1811, a. 79. (35) *Henry,*[4] b. Nov. 18, 1727; d. July 26, 1729, his death having been caused by falling from a chamber window while his parents were absent at Cambridge. (36) *Elizabeth,*[4] [+] b. Feb. 23, 1729; m. April 30, 1751, Rev. Joseph Bean. (37) *John,*[4] [+] b. Oct. 30, 1731. (38) *Samuel,*[4] [+] b. Jan. 29, 1733. (39) *Jerusha,*[4] [+] b. Sept. 11, 1734; m. Sept. 11, 1734, [?] Ebenezer Fisher, jr (40) *Daniel,*[4] [+] b. Oct. 11, 1735. (41) Rev. *James,*[4] b. Dec. 4, 1737; grad. H. C., 1762; m. March 1, 1769, Elizabeth Fisher of Wrentham; was settled over the First Congregational church at Ashford, Conn., Feb. 13, 1769; d. Jan. 6, 1782. (42) *William,*[4] b. March 3, 1739; d. March 5, 1741.

29. Ebenezer[3] Messinger, son of Thomas,[2] was b. in Boston, June 2, 1697. He m. 1st, Jan. 26, 1719, Rebecca, dau. of Wigglesworth and Ursillear Sweetser, by the Rev. Cotton Mather. He first resided in Boston, but afterwards removed to Wrentham, where his wife Rebecca d. Nov. 21, 1752, a. 51 yrs. He m. 2d, to Hannah Metcalf, Nov. 3, 1766, and d. June 9, 1768. Estate appraised at £676 18s 6d. By 1st wife had 8 ch.: (43) *Rebecca,*[4] b June 26, 1721; (43[a]) *Ebenezer,*[4] b. Nov. 25, 1723. (44) *Elizabeth,*[4] b. July 16, 1728; m Oct. 28, 1756 to Hugh Knox of Stoughton. (45) *Abigail*, m. Caleb Death of Framingham, Dec. 27, 1752. (46) *Ruth,*[4] m. Josiah Wood (47) *Ursula,*[4] m. Abraham Belknap, Sept. 15, 1763. (48) *Sweetser,*[4] [+]. (49) *Wigglesworth.*[4] [+]

32. Rev. Elias Haven (H. C., 1733), who m. Mary[4] Messinger, was the first minister settled over the second parish of Wrentham, now Franklin, Mass. He d. Aug. 10, 1754, a. 41. She d. June 10, 1756;



ch.: (50) *Martha,*[5] b. Oct. 15, 1742; d. Feb. 17, 1748. (51) *Thomas,*[5] b. Aug. 30, 1744 (H. C., 1765); m. Anna Bigelow of Weston; was settled over the 3d church in Reading, 1770; he d. May 7, 1782. (52) *Elias,*[5] b. Nov. 11, 1745; m. Elizabeth Bright, March 5, 1769; (53) *Rachel,*[5] b. July 31, 1747; d. Feb. 19, 1748. (54) *Philemon,*[5] b. July 7, 1749. (55) *William,*[5] b. June 20, 1751. (56) *Mary,*[5] b. May 6, 1753.

36. Rev. Joseph Bean of Cambridge (H. C., 1748), who m. Elizabeth[4] Messinger, was the successor of her father over the first church in Wrentham. He was ordained Dec. 5, 1750, and d. December, 1784, a. 66 yrs. The *Church Manual* says: "He was greatly beloved by his people, and his memory is fondly cherished." Their ch. were: (57) *Hannah,*[5] b. May 6, 1752; *Joseph,*[5] b. July 6, 1754. (58) *Elizabeth,*[5] b. Oct. 8, 1755. (59) *Henry,*[5] b. July 12, 1757. (60) *Cyrus,*[5] b. March 4, 1760. (61) *Molly,*[5] b. May 11, 1763. (62) *Sarah,*[5] b. Oct. 18, 1766. (63) *Horace,*[5] b. Sept. 4, 1770; was a physician in Boston, and graduated H. C., 1800. (64) *William,*[5] b. March 28, 1773.

37. John[4] Messinger, b. Oct. 30, 1731; m. 1st, Mary Messinger, Dec. 18, 1754, who d. Nov. 17, 1756, leaving one child, (65) *Mary,*[5] b. Nov. 17, 1756; d. 1768.

He m. 2d, Milatiah Corbit, June 30, 1758, who d. March 27, 1761; ch.: (65[a]) *Esther,*[5] b. March 25, 1759; m. Oct. 22, 1788, to Amariah Frost (H. C., 1770). (66) *Abigail,*[5] b. Nov. 3, 1760; d. 1761.

He m. 3d, Phebe Guild, Jan. 7, 1762; their ch. were: (67) *Emily,*[5] b. Dec. 8, 1762; m. 1st to Dr. Waldo, and 2d to Rev. Dr. John Prince of Salem. (68) *Nanna,*[5] b. Nov. 10, 1764; d. 1765. (69) *Phebe,*[5] b. Aug. 15, 1766; m. John Trescott, March 22, 1789. (70) *John,*[5] b. March 16, 1769. (71) *Patty,*[5] b. Jan. 5, 1772. (72) *Clarinda,*[5] b. May 5, 1775; d. 1782.

38. Samuel[4] Messinger, b. Jan. 29, 1733; m. June 23, 1757, Katherine, dau. of Deacon Joseph Brown of *Holliston*, Mass., and settled in the westerly part of that town, on the homestead of his father-in-law, where he d. Nov. 19, 1795. His wife d. Jan 28, 1831, a. 94 yrs. They had nine ch.: (73) *Olive,*[5] b. Aug. 26, 1758; unm.; d. at the old homestead, Oct. 25, 1847, a. 89. (74) *Joel,*[5] b. May 26, 1760; m. 1st, Sally Storrs of Mansfield, Conn.; settled in Ashford, Conn., and had two ch.: Sarah,[6] b. 1792, and Storrs,[6] b. 1799; m. 2d to a Mrs. Ruggles of Princetown, N. Y.; he d. April 28, 1850, nearly 90 yrs. of age. (75) *Julilla,*[5] b. May 9, 1762; m. April 24, 1785, Baruch Bullard; settled in Uxbridge, Mass; had six ch., and d. May 15, 1846 (76) *Henry,*[5] b. Dec. 7, 1764; d. of dropsy March 27, 1790; (77) *Joseph,*[5] b. February 23, 1767; m. Mary Mellen of Holliston; resided there for some years, and then moved to Springfield, Vt., where he d. Nov. 25, 1839; had seven ch. (78) *Laban,*[5] b. Oct. 2, 1769; d. of palsy, Feb. 13, 1846; no family. (79) *Samuel,*[5] b. July 25, 1772; m. Olive Chase of York, Me., June 8, 1801; he d. at Holliston, March 5, 1856, having ten ch., of whom the eldest was the Rev. Edward Chase,[6] b. March 8, 1802; m. April 7, 1835, Julia Cushing, and settled over a Baptist church in West Medway, Mass. (80) Rev. *Rosewell,*[5] [+] b. March 9, 1775. (81) *Charles,*[5] b. Jan. 18, 1778; d. of palsy Feb. 5, 1835; unm.

39. Ebenezer Fisher, Jr., m. Jerusha[4] Messinger, March 12, 1755, and d. Sept. 23, 1761; they had four ch.: (82) *Jerusha,*[5] b. April 15, 1756. (83) *Chloe,*[5] b. May 1, 1757. (84) *Ebenezer,*[5] b. Feb. 19, 1759. (85) *Catherine,*[5] b. Jan. 14, 1761.

40. Daniel[4] Messinger, b. Oct. 11, 1735; m. Mary Brastow, dau. of Thomas Brastow, in 1763.—*Ante,* xiii, 249. He was a farmer in Wrentham, and d. Jan. 11, 1812, a. 76 yrs. His wife d. February, 1836, a. 94 yrs. They had twelve ch.: (86) *Mary,*[5] b. March 9, 1764; m. 1st to Jona. Everett; 2d, Rev. Mr. Seamans of New London, N. H. (87) *James,*[5] b. Sept. 20, 1765, and d. Dec. 24, 1768. (88) *Daniel,*[5][+] b. June 17, 1768; m. May 26, 1793, to Susanna Hinckley.—*Ante,* xiii, 210. (89) *Sally,*[5] b. March 25, 1770; m. Timothy Dexter of Cumberland, R. I. (90) Fifth child, b. Nov. 3, 1771, and d. soon after. (91) *Henry,*[5] b. March 23, 1773; m. 1st to Frances Bowen, and 2d to Esther Gould. (92) *William,*[5] b. Feb. 24, 1775; m. Diraxa Fales of Wrentham. (93) *Repsima,*[5] b. March 9, 1777; m. Daniel Woodbury of New London, N. H., parents of Gen. Daniel P.[6] Woodbury, U. S. A. (94) *Esther,*[5] b. April 19, 1779; m. Capt. Robert Hinckley of Milton. (95) *Horace,*[5] b. Sept. 19, 1781; m. Olive Hancock of Wrentham. (96) *Elizabeth,*[5] b. July 29, 1783; m. Erasmus J. Pierce of Philadelphia. (97) *Simpson,*[5] b. Sept. 6, 1785; d. unm., May 22, 1821.

48. Sweetser[4] Messinger, m. Elizabeth, dau. of John and Elizabeth Smith. Had twelve ch.: (98) *Betty,*[5] b. March 1, 1759. (99) *Samuel,*[5] b. May 12, 1761. (100) *Rebecca,*[5] b. Jan. 8, 1763; m. Ebenezer Blake, 3d, Jan. 2, 1786. (101) *John Smith,*[5] b. Dec. 27, 1764. (102) *James,*[5] b. April 16, 1767. (103) *Ebenezer,*[5] b. March 5, 1769; m. Azubah Farrington, June 14, 1795. (104) *George Whitfield,*[5] b. Jan. 3, 1771; m. Polly Fisher. (105) *Margaret,*[5] b. Feb. 21, 1773; m. James Simpson, April 21, 1805. (106) *Eli,*[5] b. Nov. 15, 1774; m. Polly Haven, May 10, 1797. (107) *David,*[5] b. Oct. 28, 1776; m. Polly Pond, March 8, 1804. (108) *Oliver,*[5] b. June 28, 1778, and (108[a]) *Nancy,*[5] b. June 6, 1781.

49. Wigglesworth[4] Messinger, m. Jemima Everett of Wrentham, and had twelve ch.: (109) *Jemima,*[5] b. Oct. 6, 1765. (110) *Jerusha,*[5] b. Oct. 12, 1767. (111) *Pelatiah,*[5] b. Aug. 28, 1769; m. Polly King of Rutland, January, 1799; d. in 1814. (112) *Abigail,*[5] b. Aug. 11, 1771; m. Simeon Turner, May 6, 1791. (113) *Jason,*[5] b. Sept. 26, 1773. (114) *Cyrus,*[5] b. Oct. 26, 1775. (115) *Jonathan,*[5] b. Sept. 21, 1777. (116) *Artemas,*[5] b. 1780. (117) *Eunice,*[5] b. 1782. (118) *Lois,*[5] b. March 16, 1784. (119) *Avery,*[5] b. July 13, 1786. (120) *Polly,*[5] b. Aug. 29, 1788.

80. Rev. Rosewell[5] Messinger, b. March 9, 1775; grad. H. C., 1797; m. 1st, Jan. 25, 1801, Mary Brown of Concord, Mass., and 2d, January, 1819, Joanna Yeaton. He was settled at York, Me., Oct. 10, 1798; became totally blind in the early years of his ministry, and prepared and published a book on Resignation, of more than 200 pages, his wife acting as amanuensis. He d. at Berwick, Me., of congestion of the lungs, Feb. 20, 1844, a. 68. He had nine ch., viz: six by his 1st wife: (121) *Zabiah Gore,*[6] m. David Austin of Charlestown; removed to Columbus, Miss. (122) *Catharine Brown,*[6] m. John W. Capron of Uxbridge. (123) *Roswell Emerson,*[6] merchant of Boston; m. Delia Adams. (124) *David Sewall,*[6] settled at Worces-

ter; m. Harriet Sawyer. (125) *Mary Williams,*[6] unm. (126) *Hannah Churchill,*[6] m. 1st, John P. Arlin; 2d, John B. Smith; 3d, William Helde.

By his 2d wife, he had three ch.: (127) *Frances Eliza,*[6] m. Charles W. Williams. (128) *Benjamin Franklin,*[6] d. young. (129) *Charles Addison,*[6] m. Hetty Ann Green; resides in Richmond, R. I.

88. Hon. DANIEL[5] MESSINGER, whose memoir is prefixed, had ten ch.: (130) *Susanna Hewes,*[6] d. in infancy. (131) *Daniel,*[6] dec'd, m. Mary Ann Smith, dau. of Capt. Benjamin Smith, Portwarden, Boston, and had ch.: Daniel,[7] William Smith,[7] Susan Dorcas,[7] and Helen.[7] (131) *Eliza Avery,*[6] m. 1st to E. T. F. Richardson of Boston, and had William Fox,[7] merchant of Boston, Daniel Messinger,[7] d. at the a. of 13 yrs., and Charles Tyng,[7] d. in infancy; m. 2d, Gov. Anthony Colby of New London, N. H. (132) *Mary Brastow,*[6] m. John Ayers, merchant of Boston, and had: William Austin,[7] dec., Katherine Downer,[7] John,[7] Nathaniel Henry,[7] and Lionel.[7] (133) *Harriet Hinckley,*[6] m. Richard Cary Morse of New York. (134) *Thomas Hewes Hinckley,*[6] merchant of New York; m. Margaret A. Grimbly of London; now resides at Stamford, Ct., where his wife d. Jan. 15, 1862. (135) *Foster Cruft,*[6] m. 1st to Louisa Grant, and 2d to Maria J. Langley, by whom he had: Susan Hinckley,[7] Thomas Hewes Hinckley,[7] and George Washington.[7] He resides at Wilmington, Del. (136) *Susan Hewes,*[6] m. William Bailey Lang, merchant of New York, and had: Maria Bailey,[7] Caroline Walter,[7] and Fanny Gore.[7] (137) *Robert Hinckley,*[6] merchant of New York. (138) *George Washington,*[6] merchant of Boston, the compiler of this genealogy.

MEMOIR OF HON. DANIEL MESSINGER OF BOSTON.

[By JOHN WARD DEAN.]

The subject of this notice, for more than sixty years a resident of Boston, and descended from one of its early settlers, was so identified with its charitable, civil and military institutions that he might well be considered *a representative man*, for half a century, in the history of this metropolis.

Col. Messinger was born at Wrentham, Norfolk county, in this state, June 17, 1768, and was the third of twelve children of Daniel and Mary Messing er. His father, a farmer, was a son of the Rev. Henry Messinger, the *second* minister of the Congregational church of Wrentham, and his mother, Mary Brastow, was a descendant of the Rev. Samuel Mann, the *first* minister of that parish. His uncle, Rev. James Messinger, was settled over a church in Ashford, Conn., and four of his father's sisters were married to clergymen. Coming from this Puritan stock, and thus surrounded by religious influences, he was early imbued with the firmest principles of integrity and honor—principles which sustained him in his early business career, and confirmed his reputation for being, through the rest of his life, a reliable, upright and conscientious man.

For a short time after leaving school, he assisted his father on the farm; but being desirous of learning a trade, he was sent to Boston, when about fifteen years of age, and apprenticed to Mr. Nathaniel Balch, hatter, No 72, Cornhill, now Washington street, opposite the head of Water street. Mr. Balch was quite a prominent man, and was considered one of the wits of that day; so much so, that he was on quite social terms with Governor Hancock, Mr. Secretary Avery, Rev. Dr. Thacher, Mr. Sheriff Allen, William Cooper, the town clerk of half a century, and other worthies. "The apprentice thus became acquainted with some of the dignitaries of church and state, and appears to have enjoyed their friendly regard in after years."*

In the twenty-fifth year of his age, he married Susanna Hinckley. She was a daughter of Capt. Thomas Hinckley, by his wife Susanna, whose father was Dr. Daniel Hewes of Foxboro'. A few years after, by the advice of his friend, Mr. Secretary Avery, he purchased the estate at the corner of Sheaf's lane, now Avery street, and Newbury, now Washington street, the secretary residing on the opposite corner. Here Mr. Messinger carried on his business, at one time quite extensively, and built a brick factory in the rear of his dwelling house. He did not change his residence until after the decease of his wife in 1843.

In military affairs he took a great interest, and was a good officer and disciplinarian. In 1799, he raised the well-known infantry com-

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* Memoir of Col. Messinger, by Hon. Joseph T. Buckingham, in the *Annals of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association*, pp. 29-32. Free use has been made of the Memoir in preparing this sketch.

pany, the Winslow Blues—named for his friend General John Winslow—and was its first commander. In the *Columbian Centinel* of October 18, 1802, is this notice of a parade of the Winslow Blues: "On Monday last this well disciplined and respectable military corps, commanded by Capt. Messinger, celebrated the anniversary of its institution. After performing a number of manœuvres, it was marched into State street, where it performed the manual exercise (by tap of drum), and a number of firings with the most correct precision. The exercises of the day finished, the corps repaired to Faneuil Hall, where an excellent dinner was provided, to which the officers of the Legionary brigade were invited." The first toast by Capt. Messinger was: "Our native country—may its citizens emulate the virtues of the First Settlers, whose only fear was the fear of God; and whose prime duties were the support of pure religion, correct morals and good government." Upon the organization of the light infantry companies of Boston into a sub-legion, he was elected major. He was afterwards made colonel of the third regiment, and was senior colonel of the Boston brigade during the war of 1812. He was chosen a brigadier-general, but declined accepting the office. In 1792, he became a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, of which he was lieutenant in 1800, and captain in 1804 and 1810.*

He was an original member of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association in 1795, was for several years a trustee and vice-president, and for two years was president. He always took a great interest in the prosperity of this institution.

He filled various offices in the municipal and state governments; was a fireward for many years under the old fire organization; was a member of the city council; often a representative in the legislature; a member of the Massachusetts constitutional convention in 1820; and a state senator from Suffolk county in 1835. In politics, he belonged to the old Federal party, and often presided at public meetings. Afterwards, he became attached to the National Republican or Whig party. His last appearance at a public meeting, was in Faneuil Hall in 1845, when Daniel Webster, of whom he was a great admirer, spoke. Mr. Webster, on seeing him on the platform, came forward and greeted him so cordially as his "old friend Col. Messinger," as to attract the attention and elicit the applause of the citizens in that part of the hall.

From Mr. Buckingham's memoir it appears that Mr. Messinger first attended the First Baptist church of which the Rev. Dr. Stillman was pastor; but he afterwards became a member of the First Congregational church, with which he was connected till his death. For many years he was the leader of the choir of that church. "He had a fine musical ear and as fine a voice, and could sound the highest notes in the treble staff with remarkable strength and clearness. He was often invited to sing on public festive occasions, and Faneuil Hall has many a time been filled with the melody of his notes. His favorite songs were Bright Phœbus, and the Downhill of Life, both

* Whitman's *History of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company*, 2d ed., p. 354.

of which he sung when he was over seventy years old, without any perceptible imperfectness of voice."* An amusing incident occurred once at a dinner given Prince Jerome Bonaparte, in 1804. A correspondent, in the *Evening Transcript* of September 25, 1861, makes a statement on the authority of the venerable Josiah Quincy, probably the only survivor of that party: "After dinner, Col. Messinger sang the favorite old song of To-morrow. As the audience joined in the chorus of To-morrow, To-morrow, a cloud came over the countenance of the Prince, and taking his next neighbor by the arm he exclaimed 'To Moreau, To Moreau; is it a song in honor of General Moreau?' He was quickly undeceived, and smiled when he found that no one but himself was thinking of the great rival and enemy of his brother."

Mr. Messinger was by nature of a very strong constitution. His death was hastened by being accidentally knocked down by an express wagon, while crossing the street. From the effect of this shock he never recovered; it being followed by a sickness of seven months, ending by a severe attack of erysipelas and dropsy. He died June 21, 1846, being seventy-eight years and four days old. His funeral, from his late residence in Purchase street, was private, his family declining any public demonstration. He was buried in the family lot at Mount Auburn.

His pastor, the Rev. Nathaniel L. Frothingham, D. D., who officiated at his funeral, preached a discourse at the First church in Chauncy place, on the Sunday following, from which we make an extract, as a fitting close to this memoir.

"He was much before the public eye, and appears always to have enjoyed its favor; for he could be relied upon for his calm judgment, his steady determination, his zealous patriotism, his incorruptible integrity. He was usually among those who sit chief in the management of political affairs, unassuming though firm, never overstepping the proprieties of his position, and giving no offence, for it was not in his nature to give any. His character and manners showed a combination by no means usual, at least to the extent to which he displayed them, of courtesy and robustness. These qualities seemed to be stamped upon his very features, that might have looked rough to some, but it was a roughness that set off their kindliness. He was a frank, upright, plain-hearted man; eminently social in his disposition; willing to serve as far as he was able, and possessing an unusual share of that part of the apostle's praise of charity—that it is 'not easily provoked.' He was considerate of others, both by a friendliness that seemed born with him, and by a wise self-command. And since it was appointed to him to contend with so much suffering before he could obtain his discharge of death, we have reason to give thanks that he has no more to endure, but at length finds rest.

'Disturb him not; but let him sweetly take
A long repose; he hath been long awake.'"

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* Buckingham.

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